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THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION

MAGAZINE.

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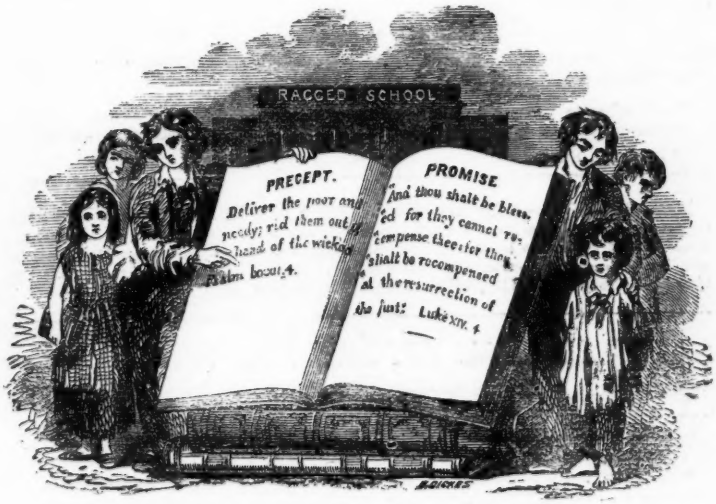
RAGGED SCHOOL
PRECEPT.
Deliver the poor and needy; rid them out of the hand of the wicked.
Psalm lxxxii. 4.
PROMISE
And thou shalt be bless-ed for they cannot re-compense thee-ter thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just. Luke xiv. 4

"The word of the Lord endureth for ever."—1 Peter i. 25.

PROFITS DEVOTED TO RAGGED SCHOOLS.

LONDON:
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* * * All Communications to be addressed to the Editor, 1, Exeter Hall, London.
Orders for Advertisements to be sent to Robert K. Burt, Printer, Holborn Hill.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Committee beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a parcel of clothing from Miss Bodkin, for Lamb and Flag Schools; a parcel of books, for School Libraries, from Miss Buffett; waste envelopes from Mrs. Beauchamp; a parcel of clothing from Mrs. Reade; a parcel of clothing from E. Trimmer, Esq.; a parcel of magazines, &c., from Lieut.-Col. Penley; and a box of magazines, reports, &c., from Mr. Alderman Palk.

Parcels of Left-off Wearing Apparel, for distribution to the Children, and for our Industrial Classes, also Books or Magazines for forming School Libraries, will be thankfully acknowledged by Mr. JOSEPH G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, W.C.

Parcels of waste paper, old magazines, reports, &c., &c., can be made good use of for the benefit of the Society, and will be thankfully acknowledged by Mr. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall.

EDUCATION.—The MISSES GENT beg to inform their friends that they have Vacancies for a few Young Ladies as Boarders on moderate terms. Their School is pleasantly situated near Kennington Park. Pupils committed to their care receive every attention and home comfort. References given and required. The Quarter will begin July 11th, 1865.—88, Camberwell New Road, S.

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BROOK STREET REFUGE & RAGGED SCHOOLS.

This Institution was established in 1813, in Henry Passage, Hampstead Road, in the midst of a densely-populated, but poor, neighbourhood, and the Committee earnestly appeal for more funds to enable them to continue the following operations, viz.: Sunday and Week-day and Night Ragged Schools, Service for Adults, Free Weekly Lectures, Mothers' Meetings, Penny Bank, Loan Libraries, &c., and an Industrial Refuge for thirty-four destitute boys.

Donations for this purpose will be thankfully received by Mr. J. G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, or by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. T. E. WAY, 29, Wigmore Street, W.

WANTED, a MASTER SHOEMAKER, in a REFORMATORY, three days per week, 4s. per day; one used to the Management of Boys, and a Member of a Christian Church, preferred. Letters of application to A. A., care of J. G. Gent, Esq., 1, Exeter Hall.

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J. E. E. respectfully begs to inform the Clergy, Superintendents of Schools, and others who are in the practice of commemorating their Anniversaries, etc., by Public Breakfasts and Tea Meetings, that he has every requisite for such occasions, comprising Tables, Coppers, and China to any extent, in a superior style, at extremely moderate charges.

J. E. E. tenders his sincere thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have hitherto favoured him with their kind patronage, and hopes by strict attention to ensure a continuance of the same; he also begs most respectfully to solicit the favour of their recommendation.

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COMMUNICATIONS BY POST IMMEDIATELY ATTENDED TO.

References are kindly permitted to be made to the Secretaries of the Ragged School Union and the Temperance League.

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LONDON FEMALE PREVENTIVE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTION.

PRESIDENT, REV. CANON DALE.

OUT OF TOWN.

The season of the year has now arrived when thousands of those on whom Providence has bestowed her blessings in abundance will be seeking rest and recreation amidst the beauties of nature; either in our own beloved land, on the continent of Europe, or elsewhere. May the Divine protection and blessing attend all such, and bring them home again in due time, the better fitted to discharge the various duties of life! But as usual, the poor and wretched will be left behind, in many instances with nothing more than an increase of misery. The Secretary of this Institution has been often greatly tried during the autumn months. The funds fall off, while the applicants are equally numerous, and cases of such peculiarity as to make rejection very painful, even to the person on whom the task devolves; but how much more on the poor outcast herself! *This, however, may to a very great extent be averted by ladies and gentlemen sending a contribution before leaving town.*

1,600 poor creatures have been received since September, 1857.

The Committee authorize the immediate admission of suitable cases at all times, room and funds permitting.

£10 is the average cost of each case for support, clothing, &c., during the whole period of probation.

Contributions in Post-office Orders, Cheques, &c., will be thankfully received by
Messrs. BOSANQUET & Co., Bankers, 73, Lombard Street, E.C.
FRANCIS NICHOLLS, Esq. (of the Committee), 14, Old Jewry Chambers, E.C.
Mr. E. W. THOMAS, Secretary, 200, Euston Road, N.W.

NICHOL STREET

Ragged Schools, Missions, and Working Men's Club,

BETHNAL GREEN.

These schools, established in 1843, are situated in one of the most destitute districts of London. Commencing with one room, the work steadily grew, until the one became sixteen; but then dilapidations became so serious, that in very self defence they had to be given up. Freehold land close by, amply sufficient, was fortunately obtained by the Committee, at a cost of £850, and a portion of the land was covered with plain school buildings, which were opened free of debt. But from the dense population of the district, and the number of the children (about 1,200) crowding into the schools, still further accommodation is absolutely necessary.

But by these efforts, and by raising about £300 a year for the support of the School and Mission, the Committee and friends of the school, who mostly live three miles distant from the scene of their work, and have no special connection with the neighbourhood, have done what they can, and are now compelled to appeal to others for the assistance necessary to complete their plans by covering the vacant piece of land in their possession.

In this the Committee have the cordial approval and assistance of Lord Shaftesbury and the Rector of Bethnal Green.

One thousand pounds is still wanted, and towards this donations will be thankfully received by Mr. GENT, Secretary Ragged School Union; or by

HENRY SPICER, Jun.,
19, New Bridge Street, E.C.

Papers, Original and Selected.

THE CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY.

"The prospect of a day's recreation in the country to Ragged School children, is far more effective in the way of discipline than a large amount of punishment."—SHAFTESBURY.

MOST true it is that

"The world's great want is love;"

and, therefore, equally true is it that all who diminish aught from the smallest measure of love existing in this world, are sinning grievously; while those who nurture and add to the kindly feelings of humanity, exercise a high kind of benevolence, and are the real benefactors of the human race. It was this love that prompted the first workers in Ragged Schools to dive into the recesses of human misery, carrying with them the balm of Gilead—the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and it is the same love that has nobly sustained the work they so well commenced. And while their primary mission was the conveying of light, joy, and peace to the soul, they did what they could to supply the necessities of the other half of humanity—the body. To say that they occasionally met with disappointment and ingratitude where they had some reason to expect success and thankfulness, is simply to admit that

"To err is human;"

but not a few found that the way to the soul was often through the body; for, by kindly attention to the latter, a Christian influence could be more promisingly brought to bear upon the former. This experience is not limited to the teacher of the once neglected child, but can be indorsed by the city missionary and the Christian philanthropist. Who has not seen the eye glisten, and heard the broken accents of heartfelt gratitude for kindness rendered in the hour of need? And who, we would again ask, has not seen and heard the joyous shout and antics of delight from a hundred young folks suddenly made happy by a promise of spending a day in the green fields with loving friends? And when the long looked-for day has arrived, how intense the joy; and as the day passed its meridian, how unanimous the desire

"That a Ragged School party would last all the year."

With great advantage to the children of the London Ragged Schools a day's holiday has been afforded them from funds given expressly for that purpose. This advantage was referred to by a speaker, the Rev. W. R. B. Arthy, at a public meeting in the north of England a few weeks since. He said "every person must feel the great need there was for improvement in the habits and manners of children, and especially of boys. The streets of Macclesfield—and he did not suppose that Macclesfield was worse than other towns—bore painful evidence of the need of moral reformation among boys. Mr. Gladstone, the other day, in making a contrast between the North and South of England in the matter of social discipline, said 'The people in the South often complain that we in the North are apt not to be too polite; that we are very energetic but very rough.' There was, it is to be feared, some ground for the accusation. Every one in these northern latitudes knows that there is a large proportion of the lower class of boys whose habits and manners are rough, coarse, and insubordinate, and that these are some of the greatest difficulties which Sunday School teachers have to contend with. Now, all that is taught in Ragged Schools tends to remedy this. The Rev. S. Thornton, a gentleman who takes a practical interest in this subject, mentioned two striking illustrations the other day of the improvement effected in the disposition of the boys by the influence of Ragged Schools. It was customary, he says, to take the boys and girls an excursion by railway, some ten or twelve miles from London. In the evening, when the children assembled for the return journey, a little girl was noticed to be in the deepest distress and crying bitterly, saying that as she had lost her ticket the collector would not admit her into the station. Presently one of the boys came up, and learning the girl's distress, exclaimed, 'Here, you shall have my ticket, and I'll walk home.' This lad told one of his fellows what he had done. Smith—the name of the second boy—fired with emulation, did what was not difficult among a crowd of juvenile excursionists; he found out another girl who was in the same plight; he gave her his ticket, and the two boys walked to London, where they arrived at something like twelve o'clock, and the girls got safely home by railway. Here was true nobleness of heart, though dressed in rags and tatters. There needed a little of such politeness among the boys of the North. Anything which elevates the lowly and outcast, is characteristic of Christianity, and is the dictate of civilization; and, by the blessing of God and the help of friends, the

committee of the Macclesfield Ragged and Industrial Schools will, in their new building, try even harder than they have done in their old one, to bring the neglected children of the town under religious and moral influence."

Many other instances might be given, but this is sufficient for our purpose, and is a fair specimen of the results worked out among these children by the kind and loving treatment manifested toward them in the summer excursions. These excursions are now general, but the circumstances of some of the less known of our schools will not admit of giving the scholars a summer treat a few miles out of town. That these very poor schools may not be overlooked, a special effort during the past eight or nine years has been made to raise a fund, mostly by the influence of Lord Shaftesbury, who, before he feels free to leave London for the autumn, desires something to be done to finish up the children's holidays, by taking the scholars attending those day Ragged Schools into the country for as long a day as possible. With this object in view, his lordship has generously written a note to Mr. Gent, the Secretary to the Parent Society, who has sent copies of it to well-known friends of the Union. The note received from the Earl last month was as follows :—

"24, *Grosvenor Square, London, W.*

"Dear Gent,—You will, I hope, renew your exertions this year to raise a fund for the annual treats to be given to the children in the Ragged Schools.

"Every one in the least acquainted with this class admits not only the happiness conferred by them on the children, but the aid thus given to the labour and success of the teachers.

"Yours truly,
(Signed) "SHAFTESBURY."

In former years, the fund raised on each occasion has been sufficient to take out from 1,500 to 3,000 children. The numbers vary, because those schools only are included which are, for the time being, considered unable to raise the needful funds to pay the cost. It is expected the number of children likely to be included in the coming day's holiday will be nearly 2,000, as one or two large schools, never before invited, have got into financial difficulties, and it will require all the energies of the local friends to put these schools upon a more satisfactory footing; for such schools to raise funds for any smaller and less important object during the same period would not be advisable, consequently the children would lose their summer holiday, unless an effort of this general character were adopted and they included in it.

Some friends of the poor do not wait to be reminded from time to time of these joyful occasions with a view to render help, but rather seek to take the initiative and prompt the action for the exercise of benevolence. A lady, whose benevolence is only bounded by her means, and who declines to be publicly known through the medium of her benevolence, lately sent the following note to Mr. Gent:—

"Sir,—Having greatly enjoyed a visit to the country myself, I feel desirous to give the same kind of treat (in a small way) to some of the poor dear children of London, who scarcely know what it is to ramble through the fields, and could scarcely distinguish a buttercup from an orchis. I know that treats are given by kind friends to many of the Ragged Schools; but will you kindly select one for me which is not likely, from its position, to have many such friends, and employ the enclosed £5 in hiring vans or paying for train-tickets, and getting refreshments for the children of such school, so that they may have a happy day at Hampstead or Bushey, or some other country place. I should be obliged by your informing me of the name of the school selected, the day on which they are to be treated, the place chosen, and also the number of children, that I may send for each some little book or card, to serve as a remembrance from

"A Lover of God's Wild Flowers."

The taking of so many children as 1,500 to 2,000 might be objected to, and at first the apparent difficulty and real responsibility did seem almost overpowering; but by the plans being well laid, and the duty each person has to discharge defined and printed, and the whole adhered to by a master mind during the entire day, the difficulties have disappeared as they have been approached. Nevertheless, when the day has come and gone, with fair weather and without accident or derangement, those who have accepted the responsible task have felt to have been relieved from no small burden. The plan for the last few years has been to take the children to Richmond by rail, by the South-Western and North London lines. By the latter line the schools are taken up at the stations nearest their own locality, beginning at Fenchurch-street, and, if needful, calling successively at Stepney, Bow, Hackney, Kingsland, Islington, and Camden. By the former road the schools in Southwark, Lambeth, and Westminster, are taken up either at Waterloo or Vauxhall. A printed ticket of the school address is furnished to every child, which is sewn on to its outer garment before leaving in the morning, and by which every child is at once identified; and in the event of the child being lost, is easily recovered. In some cases these children are required to be at the school-room a little after six in the morning, to have all in readi-

ness, and at the station, to start by the train due between eight and nine o'clock. With a view to require them to provide something towards the day's expense, each child has to bring its own dinner, to be eaten in the park at one o'clock. At three o'clock a substantial tea is provided, when every child is to have as much cake, bread-and-butter, and good tea, as it requires. At six o'clock matters begin to wear an evening aspect; young legs begin to tire; and, notwithstanding the unanimous desire of the morning, for a whole year of this sort of thing, yet the conclusion arrived at before bed can be again reached is—"A day is enough for a Ragged School party."

The kindly influence of such a happy day long survives the fatigue experienced—

"For scenes like this, so fair and bright,
Shall cheer their toilsome way;
And memory dwell, with deep delight,
On this one happy day.
Though hard and rough may be their lot
For many a coming year,
Oh ne'er through life shall be forgot
The festive gatherings there."

We have no hesitation in saying that the Society is benefited as well as the children, for by these annual treats fresh friends are gained, some as workers, others as subscribers; the public also gain in knowledge by these gatherings and perambulations of the holiday children, otherwise they would know little indeed of what is being done for the thousands of the juvenile poor of London.

Looking at the subject through different mediums, and from different points of view, we cannot but conclude that the money bestowed and expended in giving a day's excursion to the children is, *educationally* as well as physically, wisely invested.

RICHES—USE AND ABUSE.

In the *Daily Telegraph* of July 19 may be found some interesting particulars relating to a gentleman who died a few weeks ago, leaving the enormous wealth of £3,700,000.

Much riches require much grace, because they subject us to much temptation, but they will be blessed if you are saying, "How shall I render my riches available to extend the Redeemer's Kingdom, and the welfare of my fellow-sinners?" or what will be better still, if you are saying with sincerity

to the Lord of life and glory, "Teach me how to use these gifts for thy glory, for the good of my own soul, and the temporal and spiritual benefit of all around me;" then I can and do congratulate you. There is a wise saying, "It is a mercy to have that taken from us which takes us from God;" and by the same rule, it must be an affliction to have that given which produces the same effect. Riches oftentimes beget pride; they persuade a man to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; they tie him faster to a world which he must soon leave; they lay snares in his path, and engross those affections which ought to be set on high and on holy objects. These are evils which the Father of mercies alone can prevent.

Will riches add to your health? give you an appetite? assist your digestion? afford you peaceful slumber? Will they cure the pains of the head or the heart? or contribute to the peace of your mind? or add to the number of your days? Will they make you wiser or better than you were before? Will they smooth the bed of death, afford you "peace at the last," and brighten your hope of heaven? If they will do none of these things, they are not quite so desirable as we often take them to be.

Riches will be a bane or a blessing to you, according as you use them; but you have need to be watchful and prayerful that you may use them for God's glory and the benefit of your less fortunate fellow-creatures; help them, doing all from love to the dear Saviour who has done so much for you, and you will in no wise lose your reward.

"Art thou a pilgrim? dost thou travel straight
By Calvary's Cross, to find the narrow gate?
Is Christ thy hope, thy trust? yea, day by day,
Thy guide, thy staff, thy lantern, and thy way?
Canst thou for him renounce thy worldly pride?
Is he thy riches? is all dross beside?
Is he thy sword and shield in peril's hour,
Thy rock, thy refuge, thine abiding tower?
If, with thy wealth around thee, thou canst bend,
And seek with all thy soul the Sinner's Friend,
A beggar still at mercy's opened door,
Then art thou rich indeed—if not, then art thou poor."

May the spiritual riches of our readers increase, that they may help the poor and destitute more than ever they have done, from love to Jesus.

S. E.

FRESH MEAT FROM THE COLONIES FOR THE POOR.

The subject of food, both good and cheap, has always been to us one of deep interest; consequently, when jerked beef was introduced we turned our attention to it, obtained a specimen, cooked it, and found much what was said about its good qualities perfectly correct, notwithstanding all that has since been said to the contrary. We are now glad to find another scheme afloat, by which fresh meat, killed in the colonies, can be supplied sweet and good

in London. The following particulars we extract from the *Standard* of July 18:—

FRESH PROVISION PRESERVING COMPANY (LIMITED).

The high price of animal food has for a considerable period attracted much of public attention, and an attempt to counteract the evil was some time ago set on foot, with perhaps not very great success, by the importation from South America of what was called "jerked beef." Some of the specimens of the imported meat were described as palatable, and vouched by the Faculty as nutritious, and in every respect suited for food, especially when used in the shape of soups and hashes, and other preparations for the table of a somewhat similar kind; while other specimens of the like importation were with great justice condemned, as proceedings taken before the metropolitan and other magistrates abundantly testified. The drought of the last summer and the consequent scarcity of provender for cattle compelled the farmers and graziers to send a large portion of their young stock to the market in an immature condition, as the only alternative of entire loss; and the result at the present time is a scarcity of stock and a consequent price of meat higher than perhaps are remembered by the present generation. Any attempt, therefore, to increase the quantity of this great necessary of life, and consequently to lower its price, cannot but be regarded with great interest. A company was established some time ago with this most desirable consummation; and we had on Saturday great pleasure in accepting an invitation to be present at the opening of their new factory at Wennington, near Rainham, in Essex. The great object of the gathering was to bring prominently before the persons assembled, and through them and the press before the public generally, the fact that meat can be brought from any part of the world in its fresh, natural, uncooked state, to be sold at a moderate price. This would be a great boon to the world at large, as, if the attempt should be successful, it will not only give cheaper meat to ourselves and others, but create a demand in those countries where meat is an oversupply, thereby equalizing the price in all countries, and enriching our exporting brethren by taking from them that for which they have now literally no demand. The preservative process, as explained to the company, may be described briefly in this way:—the meat, enclosed in the cases, has the oxygen expelled, and the place supplied by nitrogen, and a very small quantity of sulphurous acid gas, after which the cases are hermetically sealed. In this state, legs and loins of mutton, ribs and sirloins of beef, &c., have been sent out to Gibraltar, Malta, Aden, Colombo, Bengal, and other places; and their perfect freshness and unimpaired—in some cases improved—flavour, is certified by a host of officers in her Majesty's service, including Mr. Stewart, steward of the *Marlborough*. Dr. Letheby also adds his certificate in favour of the process. The apparatus by which the results are accomplished was shown and explained to the company; and a loin of mutton was exhibited in a glass case—hermetically sealed, as was stated, five months back—which looked very like a joint cut from a sheep one day killed. Everything connected with the company was *couleur de rose*. We confess it would have been somewhat more satisfactory if the preserved mutton had been exhibited in its cooked as well as in its raw condition; still, as far as one's judgment goes, the Fresh Provision Preserving Company appears to have solved one of the most important questions of the day, that of providing "mutton for the million," by transferring it, as well as its brother beef, from where it is nearly valueless to where it will be a great boon. The absence of the preserved meat at Wennington was, however, amply compensated by what was called a pic-nic *déjeûner* on the lawn of the residence of one of the directors, where a cold collation, consisting literally of "all the delicacies of the season," was dispensed with a most hospitable and unsparing hand. We heartily wish success to the company in their important, and we trust profitable, enterprise.

THE SCHOOL AGENT'S WORK IN THE NORTH AND EAST OF LONDON.

From the report presented by Mr. Curtis to the Committee of the Ragged School Union of his labours during the fourth year of his official connection with the Society, we select the following extracts:—

During the past year the following visits have been paid by me, viz., to—

Day Schools	430
Evening Schools	265
Sunday Schools	100
Conferences on School Business	69
Public Meetings	18
Social Meetings	6
Public Conferences	8
Committee Meetings	5
Mothers' Meetings	6
Parents' Meetings and Working Men's Clubs	8
Total	915

NEW AND EXTENDED OPERATIONS OR INSTITUTIONS CONNECTED WITH THE UNION DURING THE PAST YEAR:—

8 Sunday Schools; 7 Day Schools; 7 Evening Schools; 2 Mothers' Meetings; 2 Religious Services; 1 Clothing Club; 4 Sewing Classes; 1 Bible Class; 2 Working Men's Clubs; 2 Soup Kitchens; 1 Drum and Fife Band; 1 Farthing Bank; 1 Relief Fund; 2 Libraries.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

In the north and east of London there are 35 schools open in the morning, with an attendance of 2,267; 64 open in the afternoon, attendance 7,715; 48 open in the evening, attendance 6,500; total 14,000: being an increase of 1,000 over that of last year.

The statistics furnished to the Conferences held last summer, showed that several schools, either in the afternoon or evening of the Sabbath, were closed entirely. This evil has been partly remedied by the establishment, in connection with those schools, of five entirely new operations and other institutions.

At my instance, a public meeting, preceded by a social tea-meeting, was held a short time since in connection with the schools, at which twelve persons were induced to come forward as voluntary teachers either for the Sunday evening or the week evening work. Another school caught the inspiration and held a similar meeting, at which fifteen teachers were added.

* * * * was in an almost disorganized state, owing to the want of a superintendent. I was fortunate in being able to secure for them a tried, energetic, and pious worker in Ragged Schools. The school has been reduced to order and the attendance increased.

* * * * Sunday Afternoon and Evening Schools have both very much improved in attendance and efficiency under the management of a young, but able and energetic superintendent.

* * * * Sunday Evening School has been reduced from a chaotic condition into a state of order and prosperity, through the tact and energy of the new superintendent. Formerly there was a turbulent mob outside, and uproar within. On a recent visit peace and order reigned everywhere.

I have put myself frequently in communication with the superintendents of certain schools respecting their small Sunday attendance as compared with the week-day attendance, and the occasional large non-attendance of those said to belong to the respective schools; and have, moreover, urged a visit from time to time of those teachers not engaged on Sunday to the Sabbath School for the purpose of checking this evil.

Thus, in one school:—Attendance, 90; 20 absent on previous Sunday; 10 went nowhere.

In another:—Attendance, 90; 27 absent on previous Sunday; 17 went nowhere.

In another:—Attendance, 60; 24 absent on previous Sunday; 12 went nowhere.

In another:—Attendance, 100; 37 absent on previous Sunday; 22 went nowhere.

In another:—Attendance, 130; 71 absent on previous Sunday; 22 went nowhere.

The short supply of teachers in many of our schools is partly owing to the removal to the suburbs of so many of our most valuable Christian young men. This would be remedied were the pious young men connected with suburban churches to associate themselves for the purpose of supplying teaching power to distressed Metropolitan schools. This extraordinary aid would be required for only about seven months of the year—from the beginning of October to the end of April—and the staff might be so large as to tax the time of each teacher but one Sunday in a fortnight. It would be necessary for the fixity and order of such operations, that the superintendent and a few local teachers should be permanent.

The short supply is also partly owing to the fact that the Christian Church is not yet awake to a sense of its obligations. The Church, in her corporate capacity, is not militant. She is more like an army in time of peace, each soldier going through his periodical drill, and recruits supplying the ranks as vacancies occur, the sword the meanwhile resting in the scabbard. But were this army to manifest this mere playing at soldiers in the face of an invading foe, it would scarcely be more recreant to its duty than the Christian Church is now to its home heathen, for it is still true, to a great extent, that "she has retired to rest and drawn the curtains around her," while principalities and powers, led on by the great archangel ruined, are prosecuting a sleepless warfare against her peace and safety.

This matter of an inconstant and deficient supply of teachers is deeply felt by the majority of our schools; but all the steps are not taken that might be to supply this want. For instance, there is more timidity shown in the matter of teachers than in the matter of money, and some schools, through

want of wisdom, get into unfavourable relations with neighbouring ministers, whose countenance and support would be invaluable, and, further, proper steps are not taken to retain teachers. Some institutions seek systematically to supply this want by partly raising their own teachers, by getting help from without, and by retaining the staff so obtained.

Bible Classes supply a means for raising teachers. A correspondent in the *Ragged School Union Magazine* for November, page 259, says, "Initiatory Classes should be established in each school, so as to form a connecting link between scholars and teachers, and to have directly for their object the training of promising scholars for the future teachers."

This is not a mere theory, for, he adds, in the school with which he has been connected for many years, many of the old scholars have been on this plan educated into efficient teachers; and from the fact that they as a rule reside very close to the school, they become the more valuable on this account. My judgment and experience are at one with these remarks.

Another means is supplied by Social Tea Meetings, held monthly during autumn and winter, for conference and prayer. These meetings are found eminently successful in bringing teachers into friendly relations. They create a bond of union, and transform an unfamiliar place into a home.

Another equally as important means is a carefully-kept register of the name, address, and attendance of each teacher. Where the teacher has not engaged to attend every Sunday, a card should be supplied, giving the dates of his or her attendance. And a list, giving the name of each teacher, with the dates of attendance for a quarter or half year, should be hung up in a very conspicuous position in the school. Teachers would see who were expected, and would remind one another.

The attendance of the teachers should be carefully marked, and in cases of absence, inquiries should be made either by personal visitation or by letter. Such a course is adopted by our more successful schools. I know of an excellent superintendent in the north of London, who does not trust to the memory of his teachers, but writes to them in the week prior to the Sabbath of their engagement.

In some cases, because teachers have come and gone, because their attendance has been irregular, because their supply has been limited, because the whole affair seemed a realm of uncertainties, superintendents or committees have lost heart in the matter. The trial of faith is said to work patience, and patience experience, and experience hope. Despair must then have another genuine principle, viz., unbelief. The obvious duty then is to have faith and hope; to put on as a vesture, or rather to have, as the great pulsating principle of life, charity—the charity that believeth all things, hopeth all things. If so, the little *one* shall yet become a thousand.

DAY SCHOOLS.

There are in the north and east of London 82 school buildings. The district schools permit the following classification:—17 Boys', 8 Girls', 8 Girls' and Infants', 23 Mixed, 23 Mixed and Infants', and 31 Infants'; making a total of 110 schools having an attendance of 10,251 children. This number gives an increase of some 700 children over the attendance of last year.

The new schools are five in number.

EXAMINATIONS.

Each school, agreeable to the instructions of this Committee, has been examined by me in reading, writing, arithmetic, Scripture facts, and tables and notation. Children of about seven years and under are rejected as ineligible for examination.

The test for reading is some verse or verses from the Gospels. In writing, those marked good are required to write their names and addresses, or some easy sentence from dictation, in a neat and legible manner; those marked moderate, some word also from dictation. In arithmetic the first four rules are regarded as essential. Some schools go beyond, advancing through the compound rules into Reduction; this advance is confined to a few. In Scripture facts is required a knowledge of the great outlines of Scripture history (details avoided), excepting the Life of Jesus, where a knowledge of details is expected. An acquaintance with the great features of the plan of salvation is also expected. In notation, those marked good are required to write four figures from dictation, viz., such a number as 4,014; and those marked moderate three figures from dictation, such a number as 314 or 309. Notation is an intellectual exercise, and cannot be taught by rote; the thinking power of the child must be exercised, and as a knowledge of it to the extent of some three or four places seems indispensable to any arithmetical power, I include it among the subjects for examination. Tables: a knowledge is required of multiplication and money tables, and a few leading facts in weights and measures.

The details of my examination will show:—Children present, 7,823. Examined, 4,107. Reading, good, 1,049; moderate, 909; total, 1,958. Writing, good, 1,392; moderate, 847; total, 2,266. Scripture facts, 721; moderate, 676; total, 1,394. Notation, 3 figures, 1,207; 4 figures, 636. Tables, multiplication, 986; money, 709. Arithmetic:—Addition, 1,612; subtraction, 809; multiplication, 764; division, 328; long division, 180; money, 108; ditto, 71.

There is a growing interest felt in these examinations; the more energetic hail them, and faithful teachers are encouraged by their labours being brought to light. Committees are also frequently anxious to know the result of the examination, and in some instances have asked to be present.

My mode of examining reading has been objected to. It has been said that the children should be examined in the books through which they have been passing. I invariably take the Scriptures, selecting for reading passages from the Gospels; for those marked moderate the easier passages.

To take the books and boards used in the school would be fitting were my object that of ascertaining the industry of the teacher or the scholar; but if it be to ascertain how many are able to read, some book should be taken, or some parts of the book, which being quite as easy, if not easier, than the ordinary reading-book, is not quite so familiar. The object of the examination, as I understand the instructions of the Committee, is to discover not what particular book can be read, but whether they have acquired that art which can be applied to any book.

I always make allowance for nervous children; pausing to steady them, helping them with a word or giving them an easier verse, and not passing them till assured of their ability or inability. From the migratory habits of many of the poor, our teachers labour under many disadvantages. The attendance is frequently short, irregular, and unpunctual. Moreover, most of them leave at a very early age. When visiting the school for the purpose of examination it is sometimes said, "Had you come a fortnight ago you would have been pleased with my reading." To obviate this, I have expressed my willingness to visit the school at a short notice from the teacher; and in those instances, when the school has been taken at a disadvantage, to defer or even repeat the whole or parts of the examination.

Besides my own examinations I have been present by invitation at those conducted by several Committees.

Attention has been paid by Committees and teachers to the class seeking admission. Many children have been rejected as ineligible; others, whose circumstances have improved, have been removed to pay schools.

The registering of the daily attendance has been more carefully attended to; and in some schools prizes have been awarded to those more regular and punctual in their attendance. In some schools the practice exists of closing the doors at a particular time in order to ensure more early attendance. This may contribute to the order and progress of the school, ensure the advantages of better and more thorough teaching, and in some districts among the decent poor may not in any way operate mischievously; but in neighbourhoods where the habits of the people are such as characterize the more degraded of the population, the effect is frequently to shut out those poor children whom it is the mission of our schools to humanize and Christianize. In one school in the east of London where this practice was resorted to, the dirty and deplorable were excluded. The mistress was a very excellent person, and a good teacher; but she had been accustomed to the superintendence of a quiet and orderly National School, and being, moreover, of delicate health, had neither the taste nor the nerve to contend with the more rough and disorderly. This matter was brought by me to the notice of the Committee. They have in consequence made arrangements with a view to remedy this evil. It is our object to catch those who seek to escape from restraint, and bring them gradually by kindness to habits of subordination, attention, and application—the very groundwork of social order.

In school material there has been some improvement, although there is still considerable room for amendment. Several have added that very useful appliance, "Scripture Pictorial Illustrations," the teachers by such aid being enabled to address little minds through two senses instead of only one, and find, as a consequence, the task comparatively easy. I was struck recently with the general and accurate knowledge of Scripture possessed by very little children. On inquiry the teacher informed me that she used the series of "Scripture Illustrations," which the Committee had provided on my recommendation; and so in all other schools where these are in use, the progress has been almost equally marked.

The practice of teaching reading in the earlier classes by the collective method has been very successful. The classes are kept continually occupied and interested; the understandings of the children are not contracted

by being confined to detached words and letters, but get by continuous reading the thread of the story in the grasp of their understanding. This method, moreover, contributes to orderly behaviour, as the children have not the temptation to playfulness which accompanies the leisure of the individual method. The children by that system are unoccupied the greater part of the time devoted to reading.

If we turn to writing we find it almost the rule (and this is not confined to Ragged Schools) that great numbers of children are able to write neatly and correctly from copy who are unable to write a simple word from dictation. To correct this evil I have recommended that the alphabet, in capital and small letters, should be painted on a black board, and placed in a conspicuous position in the school; that after the children have been taught to make the letters they should be dictated to them—not in their regular order—the children being required to find them out on the board and to copy from that—not from a formal copy. After a given time the slates should be inspected, the teacher afterwards making the letter in chalk on a small black board, by which any mistake as to the letter, or any fault as to the mode of its formation, would be corrected. Subsequent to this, words of two or three letters should be dictated, and the children again made to find the letters composing them on the black board. On inspection, corrections should be made, and the copy set on the black board. Any mistakes in the mode of joining the letters may be now remedied. Were this plan adopted, I feel sanguine that so many instances of imperfect knowledge would not be found among the writers.

And here I would mention that some school-books have recently been published by the Voluntary School Association, in which the written as well as the printed character have been introduced into the early reading lessons. So also with the Borough Road lesson-books (new series). Their old books have been so modified and improved as to meet the requirements of the new Minute, regulations of which are very stringent on the elementary matters of reading and writing.

I believe that efforts are made by some of the teachers to give a more systematic knowledge of Bible facts, which must result in a more general acquaintance with Scripture; the cases already alluded to in connection with pictorial illustrations giving an assurance in this matter. In one school the teacher had set about collecting instances to fix upon the minds of the children, which showed the disastrous consequences resulting from the breach of moral and religious duties, such as lying, covetousness, treachery, forgetfulness of God, faithlessness, and general disobedience; and instances of an opposite character, such as show the blessedness resulting from a moral and religious life. The master beautifully remarking, "I want these boys to go out into the world on the guard against temptation."

Thus the conscience kept continually on the alert has a "Thou God seest me" continually blazing over the avenues to evil.

But there are many teachers, and some among our most valuable, who do not, probably cannot, go thus systematically to work; but whose whole teaching is so pervaded by love to Christ, whose consciences are so sensitive to the approach to sin, that they, so to speak, generate an atmosphere of piety about them, which operates most favourably on the moral and religious life of the children.

EVENING SCHOOLS.

In the north and east there are 42 Boys', 35 Girls', and 29 Mixed Schools. Time of opening ranging from 6 o'clock to 8; the average time being 7. Average attendance upwards of 5,000, showing an increase over that of last year.

In 48 schools there is occasional voluntary aid, and in 35 the aid is constant.

The voluntary aid in a few schools is equal to the demand, but in the majority not so; while in one-half it is not even occasional. There are a few teachers who with the aid of monitors can manage a Mixed School of some fifty or sixty admirably; but this ability is rare. It is almost an impossibility for any man or woman, however gifted, to cope with a turbulent set of the roughest class, so as to maintain the order and carry on the teaching.

Committees it is hoped will be more alive to this matter, and feel that their work is not more than half done when a paid master or mistress has been provided.

REFUGES.

There are six in my districts in connection with the Union—four for boys and two for girls. The occupations of the boys are wood-cutting, mat-making, carpentering, tailoring, and shoe-making; those of the girls are cooking, washing, sewing, sweeping, and scrubbing.

While the industrial training forms the most *conspicuous* feature in our refuges, training in letters is fairly attended to, and the moral and religious training is paramount. The half-time system—that is, the combination of the school and the workshop—is a great advantage, the one giving a zest to the other.

THE SHOE-BLACKS,

with an aggregate number of 373, and annual earnings amounting to upwards of £6,000, have attained the rank of a permanent institution.

Arrangements have been made by the Societies to secure more attention to the education of the boys.

Masters have been appointed at the various stations, and the boys are required to attend on the evenings the schools are open.

RAG BRIGADE.

This institution, originated by well-known Ragged School friends, presents another opening for the employment of our poor boys. Thirty four boys are now employed. In nine months the following were collected—50,000 bottles, 39 tons of paper, 14 tons of rags, 8 tons of bones, 5 tons of fat, 6 tons metal, 1½ tons rope, 3½ tons old carpet, 5 tons cloth, and 11 cwt. culler. The boys breakfast at the establishment, after which family prayer is conducted by the superintendent, who was formerly a boy in Sermon Lane Ragged School. A Bible Class is also held weekly, and a class for helping the more backward to read and write, while each boy is expected to attend the Evening School connected with his own Ragged School.

PENNY BANKS.

There is scarcely a school under my supervision that has not a Bank or Clothing Club, and sometimes both, either directly or indirectly connected with it. There are in direct connection 42 Banks and 37 Clothing Clubs. The rate of interest varies from six to twelve per cent.; while in some cases no interest is paid at all, the Bank nevertheless flourishing.

For instance, a Bank in the north of London has between six and seven hundred depositors. It had £247 in hand at the close of the year. The Bank never closing, the people therefore are not obliged to take out their money. The money is taken on Saturday evening from 8 to 9. One week's notice is required for the withdrawal of deposits; some guarantee against improvident spending. A Bank to receive sums as low as one farthing was started this year by one of the teachers—the money received twice a day, a quarter of an hour before school-time in the morning, and so in the afternoon. The following particulars respecting it are very interesting:—The Bank opened for twenty-eight weeks; depositors 95; amount deposited, £14 12s. 7½d. Greatest amount deposited on any given time by one boy, 6d., earned by taking notice-boards about on Saturday. Greatest amount by one depositor, 10s. 3½d, principally earned by taking home work for laundress. Bought with it pair of boots and jacket for Christmas. £8 0s. 6½d. deposited entirely in half-pence and farthings, the remainder in pence. One boy made 117 deposits, his amount was 3s. 0½d.; one boy made application for withdrawal three weeks before the time. Reason for so doing, to lend mother to pay for cab, who was going into the hospital to undergo an operation. Seven boys purchased new boots. A boy, whose amount was 5s. 10d., lent it to his sister to help her to provide clothes for service. Another boy leaving school in November, drew out his money to buy aprons, he going to place. The above and many more details were collected by the master. Such disinterestedness is delightful to meet with. Some paid teachers give a great deal of voluntary service.

INDUSTRIAL CLASSES.

The number under my supervision is about 60; attendance, 2,000. Those of former years continue, and several new ones have been formed during the present year. These classes must eventually work a great revolution in the homes of working men, for it is well known that rags among the poor is owing not so much in many cases to poverty or want of time, but to inability to handle the needle. The making old clothes look as well as new is the change these Sewing Classes are aiming to bring about.

WORKING MEN'S CLUBS.

Two have been started in my districts during the year, viz., in New Nichol Street; and in Golden Lane Schools, Hatfield Street. Instruction, amusement, and refreshment, are provided. Each is likely to become great blessings to its neighbourhood.

FLOWER SHOWS.

These peaceful exhibitions are on the increase. Rufford's Buildings and New Nichol Street held their first this year. The Lamb and Flag repeated its show, and other schools are meditating their adoption. This year's show of the Lamb and Flag was marked by progress. "Two years ago," says the report, "there was a flower brought in a hat and another in a bucket; on this occasion the inquisitive would look in vain for such crudities. Hand in hand with the love of plants has grown the love of comeliness—the pots are clean, mother earth well smoothed, and pride shown in the white rim of the pot." It is desirable that Flower Shows become general, for the love of a simple flower may be the point of contact, in the otherwise most degraded, to which the pure-minded man or woman may attach themselves in order to rescue the victims of vice and crime from a career of inevitable destruction.

Let the love of flowers and their cultivation become general, the taste for grace and beauty will be so developed that blind alleys, filthy rooms, slatternly persons, and unwashed bodies will be unendurable. That this improvement is a natural sequence is shown by the offer of prizes both at Bloomsbury and the Lamb and Flag for clean and tidy rooms.

Flower Shows have a religious significance, for the cultivation of flowers may lead to the comprehension of that great sermon by the Great Teacher, "Consider the lilies of the field."

SANITARY.

Several schools in the north and east of London, at the instance of the Ladies' Sanitary Association, continue to visit the parks twice in the week during the summer months. Under the auspices of this society a course of lectures is being delivered in the east of London on sanitary topics. I should like to see an arrangement made with this society for the delivery of lectures on such topics in connection with our schools all over London. Sanitary improvements have been made in connection with Foster Street, Elder Walk, Dove Row, and Charles Street. At George Yard the boys have the advantage of a bath, and so at Foster Street, both warm and cold; while in some others there are lavatories or admission on easy terms to swimming baths. But it is to be regretted that in schools where ample provision is made for good ventilation, teachers are not careful to employ them. I should like to see the introduction of sanitary mottoes in our schools; they should be printed as large as possible.

EDUCATIONAL AUXILIARIES.

In the foremost place this year must stand Industrial Exhibitions, and to the credit of the Ragged School movement must be placed the celebrated North London Exhibition, originated by Mr. Watts and started in a Ragged School. The success of this exhibition amounted to a marvel, whether we regard its attendance, its pecuniary results, or its distinguished patronage. Its fame has stirred the nation. And here must not be omitted, as an imita-

tion in an humble way, the local exhibition originated by Mr. W. H. Miller, and held in the Lambeth Ragged School during the Christmas holidays.

While the Working Man's Club offers to the single or married man an innocent place for needful recreation, the Industrial Exhibition supplies a motive to the improvement of spare hours at home. In addition to these more conspicuous educational efforts, there are the weekly, monthly, and winter Lectures, which are on the increase, and this year a novelty has been introduced in the shape of Penny Readings, consisting of selections from favourite authors, interspersed with vocal and instrumental music. The sale of cheap and instructive periodicals continues—"Our Children's Magazine," "Band of Hope," "British Workman," "Child's Companion," &c., are in great request. In one school as many as 1,100 were disposed of to parents and children. Golden Lane, with its "Free Library" of 1,200 volumes, and 633 readers, and Fox Court, with its "Free Library" of 600 volumes, and 100 to 200 readers, are excellent educational agencies.

Our schools are centres of beneficence whence issue benefits for both soul and body. By lodging-house missions, house to house visitation, and tract distribution in the east and elsewhere, the Gospel is taken into the most unwelcome abodes for the interest of the soul; and for the advantage of the body, from these same beneficent centres, are dispensed food for the hungry, clothes for the naked, medicine for the sick, nourishment for the convalescent, and comforts for the dying.

RESULTS.

Travelling over a series of years, and collecting from every branch of Ragged School effort, fruitful instances might be gathered in such abundance as to fill volumes. A teacher of a small evening school relates that 180 of his boys have at various times subscribed in very small sums for the copy of the Scriptures at the reduced price of the Ragged School Union. These have been taken all over the globe, and have proved a comfort to the sailor-boy in the hour of peril. Several of his children have died in Jesus, he having witnessed their happy deaths; others are now living to adorn the doctrine of Christ. Another Sabbath School superintendent relates many instances, which space fails me to particularize; but I must mention the following in his own words:—

"P. G., a boy about six or seven years old, attended our school. He was taken ill; I visited him. His mother was a widow occupying an underground kitchen. Just before his death he asked me to send him a picture card. 'And what kind shall I send you?' I said. He paused, and then said 'Send me "happy land."' The dear child soon went there. About five years afterwards I had a message that his mother was very ill, and wished to see me. I went, and found that she was rejoicing in the Lord Jesus, and to my joy she told me that the word read to her little dying boy would not leave her. She said, 'I could not then read a word, but now I can read a whole chapter very nicely, and no one taught me.' She recovered, was taken ill again, and one Sabbath evening last summer I saw her lying in one corner of the room on the floor, happy, and as full of peace as could be well conceived. It was her last Sabbath here." Another well-known school in the east-end rejoices in the conversion

of souls and the reclamation of drunkards. An adult who was converted at their Ragged Church services, is now a minister of the Gospel in New Zealand.

In reviewing the operations of the past year, the active steps taken by our own Committee, the revived activity of local friends, the increase of schools and scholars, Bible Classes, Prayer Meetings, Penny Banks, Working Men's Clubs, Flower Shows, and Industrial Exhibitions, we ought to thank God and take courage.

PRESENTATION TO MR. W. J. WATTS.

On Tuesday, April 11th, the teachers of the Lamb and Flag Ragged Schools, with a few of their friends, held a highly interesting meeting for the purpose of congratulating their much respected Secretary, Mr. Watts, on his officially coming of age, he having been connected with that Institution ever since its commencement, twenty-one years ago; and as a proof of the high esteem in which he is held by all the teachers, they presented him with a handsome testimonial, consisting of a superb and highly ornamented time-piece.

The excellent tea with the pleasant chat over the cheering cup having been thoroughly enjoyed, the real business of the evening commenced. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Pass, the Superintendent of the Sabbath School.

Mr. Watts had been carefully kept in ignorance, and expected Mr. Pass to deliver an essay, but that gentleman rose and said that as it was the coming of age of the Lamb and Flag Ragged Schools, and of their honoured Secretary, who had laboured incessantly for its welfare, and who, with the officers and teachers, had often been placed in seasons of trial and difficulty, out of which God had delivered them and over which God had enabled them to triumph, he thought it a most fit opportunity to devote a portion of the evening to devotional exercises, and therefore hymns of praise were sung, and thanksgivings and prayers were offered to Almighty God for the abundant blessings he had vouchsafed to the institution in the past, and that in the future his favour might guide and prosper every effort put forth for the spread of the Redeemer's cause, and for the glory of his name.

Mr. Pass, in a most pleasant, cheering, and amusing speech, addressed the teachers. Amongst other things he said, taking them altogether, they were like a thorough good English plum-pudding Some were the plums, and the chief one he considered was their respected Treasurer, Mr. Alderton, for he often supplied a very large plum; some were the currants; some the spice, and all the candied-peel, for he had always found them all most candid. He must also throw in some spirits, although he should be obliged to pick out teetotalers, they being among the most spirity; as to himself, he was the dry stick which stirred them all up and put them in their proper place. And now, sir, addressing Mr. Watts, he said I will show you a fine plum picked out of this excellent pudding.

The time-piece was then placed on on the table, and a burst of cheers broke forth from all present.

Mr. Le Dieu, the former superintendent of the Sabbath School, who has worked with Mr. Watts for eighteen years, then read the following address,

which had been signed by all the teachers :—

Lamb and Flag Ragged Schools,
April 11th, 1865.

DEAR SIR,—The brightest and most cheering aspect that characterises the Protestant Church of the present generation is its active labour on the field of Christian philanthropy.

During the past thirty years missionary efforts in foreign lands have been extended widely, while at home city and home missions have been working in the same cause. Institutions also for the cure or relief of almost every malady affecting the mind or the body, nay, even for the hopelessly incurable and the idiot, have been founded. Reformatories for the improvement of the criminal and diminishing of crime have been established. Industry has been stimulated and encouraged by International and Local Exhibitions of Workmanship and Art, while in the spirit of true Christianity, descending to the most neglected, degraded, and dangerous classes, zealous efforts have been put forth to raise the fallen from the mire of corruption and place them in the way that leadeth onward and upward from earth to heaven.

Sprung from one source, these varied efforts have but one aim, "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will unto man."

Among the goodly band of Christian philanthropists and true patriots who are labouring in the holiest of causes, you, dear sir, have long held a place. You have won for yourself the respect and admiration of not a few, and we congratulate you heartily and sincerely that the works on which you have been so honourably engaged have met with so large an amount of true success.

Confining ourselves, however, to the works carried on in this place, and in which it is our privilege to be identified with yourself, we cannot but most heartily rejoice in the success that has been granted you.

Twenty-one years ago, sir, you were among the first who brought to this then benighted spot the light of the Lamp of Divine truth, and to you it has been given to see that light spread around and enter into more than one dark home, and still darker soul, and, dispelling that darkness, light the eye of faith to a bright eternal home.

Twenty-one years ago, sir, you were with the first who planted here the tree of knowledge, and you have been permitted to see that young sapling take deep root and, growing, become a goodly tree, beneath the branches of which are daily gathered near three hundred young immortals gathering from the fruits of the tree precious truths to direct them through time unto eternity.

To trace the progress of this Institution during the past twenty-one years would be only to repeat facts with which you are more fully acquainted than ourselves; but on the gradual development of the several branches of these schools and their continuance in an efficient condition we owe so much to your untiring zeal and industry, that we cannot err in saying that the success following your efforts is mainly the result of your prayerful labour.

Surely here is cause for rejoicing with humble, holy joy; but we are met on this occasion not to offer you mere congratulations, we ask you to accept them, and with them our sincere Christian regards embodied in the form of this time-piece we now hand you, requesting you to accept it as a memorial of your past labours here, and an expression of our appreciation of the uniform kindness and Christian courtesy we have ever experienced from you in our mutual intercourse.

We mean not our gift to be suggestive though it may point to the flight of time, the near approach of eternity. We know these truths are not as an idle tale to you, and our earnest united prayer is that, so redeeming the time in works of faith and labours of love, you may, since God has been pleased to raise you from

the bed of sickness, long continue to enjoy his favour here, and when your earthly course shall be finished, may enter into the promised rest of the faithful servant, a rest and joy that, unmarked by divisions of time, shall continue in their fulness of satisfaction through the countless ages of eternity.

Believe us, dear sir, in the bonds of Christian affection, yours most sincerely,

(Then follow the signatures of all the teachers.)

Mr. Watts now rose and said he hardly knew what to say in receiving such a favour at their hands; had they given him a little notice he might have prepared a speech, but they had taken him so unawares that if he did not fully express his feelings they must take the will for the deed. He knew he loved the teachers, and this was a fresh proof of their love to him. He could say that during the whole twenty-one years he had never heard a jarring note among them at any of their meetings, and he attributed the success of the institution in a great measure to the unity that had thus always existed. He spoke of the many changes that had taken place by deaths and removals, and thanked God that the same oneness of spirit, of aim, and of end, was the golden cord that bound them all together.

He again thanked them heartily for their kindness, and concluded by saying that to have the esteem of those with whom we were associated was a thing greatly to be desired and prized, not that we were to go out of the path of duty to court it, but by a uniform, consistent, and Christian-like line of conduct to endeavour to obtain it.

Mr. Pass now finished his plum-pudding speech by relating an amusing instance of a Frenchman's visit to a friend in England, and the Englishman's visit to his friend in France.

The Englishman feasted his French friend with good old English fare, roast beef and plum-pudding. The Frenchman was so delighted with the pudding that he begged for a recipe that he might understand the mystery of preparing so dainty a dish.

In due time the Frenchman invited his English friend to France, and of course the plum-pudding was to be one of the delicate viands. When the time came for the pudding, the cook with assistance brought in a large tureen. "Why," said the Frenchman, "I did not order soup; I said pudding." To be sure, everything named in the recipe was in the tureen. The Englishman smiled, and said, "You should have put it in a pudding-cloth, and then you would have had plum-pudding and not plum-soup. And again addressing Mr. Watts, Mr. Pass said, You, sir, are the pudding-cloth, and, under God you are absolutely necessary to the successful carrying on of the various operations of the Lamb and Flag Ragged Schools. With you encircling us, and God binding us together with the cord of Christian charity, and the bond of Christian love, then do we form a perfect whole—then do we come up to the original intention of our Maker. May you be long spared thus to encircle us, and when you shall have done, and suffered your Heavenly Father's will on earth (and may that be far, very far hence), may he as a token of his love present you not with a time-piece—for time with you will be no more—but with an eternity of peace, when you stand in "his presence, where is fulness of joy, and at his right hand where are pleasures for evermore." May you receive those precious words of welcome from your blessed Saviour: "Well done, good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord;" and may all the people say "Amen and Amen."

After speeches of hearty congratulation from Mr. Best and Mr. Alderton, and a few remarks from Mr. Dalton, the happy meeting was brought to a conclusion.

RAGGED SCHOOLS IN VICTORIA.

THE Geelong Ragged School Association has held its first annual meeting, and the report then read states:—

"In submitting the first annual report of the Geelong Ragged School Association, the committee recognise with gratitude the measures of success which has attended their operations during the year. The establishment of Ragged Schools in Geelong was a matter which had occupied the attention of the benevolently disposed of the community for some years past, but practical measures to meet this felt necessity were not entered upon till the month of November, last year.

"During the year the school-roll has ranged from sixty to seventy, with an average attendance of from forty-five to forty-eight. The branches taught have been English, reading, writing, and the elementary branches of arithmetic. The Bible holds an appropriate place in the exercises of the school. At certain hours daily the girls are instructed in plain needlework and knitting, and the boys are engaged in other industrial occupations. The results of labour done in school have at intervals been sold, and the proceeds devoted to a fund for booting and clothing the most necessitous.

"After commencing operations it was soon perceived that the committee would not only have to educate and clothe the children, but to some extent feed not a few of them as well. It is to no purpose to ply with books and boards children who are starving for bread. Arrangements were easily made to meet the more necessitous of such cases, and from twelve to seventeen children have been regularly supplied with one meal at least daily. The committee have to record with gratitude that they have been greatly aided in this department of their work by considerate gifts of bread and other provisions from benevolent friends both in Geelong and the neighbouring district. The attention of the Christian public is respectfully called to this mode of bestowing kindness. Gifts of food are surely well bestowed in aid of such a scheme, and the assurance may without hesitation be given, that, under the supervision of the committee, all such gifts will be economically distributed.

"The committee refer with pleasure to the fact that during the year a Sabbath School has been organized, having a superintendent and five teachers, male and female, with an attendance of about forty children. The Sabbath School meets on the premises, Corio Street, every Sabbath afternoon, and all the teachers speak with satisfaction of the measure of success which has hitherto attended their efforts. Recently the superintendent of the Sabbath School and the teachers very liberally provided a treat for the children, and in attending to the physical and moral wants of their young charge, spent a very delightful evening with them.

"Reference to the treasurer's report for the year shows that the varied operations of the association have been carried on with the strictest regard to economy. The rate of expenditure for each child per annum is about £1 7s."

Correspondence.

KNIFE-CLEANING BRIGADE.

To the Editor of the Ragged School Union Magazine.

Sir,—I have always considered that the benevolent persons who originated the Shoe-black Society sought for some employment whereby the lads might honestly gain, be of general utility, and not interfere with any existing interest; which combined objects they have fully achieved. I venture to suggest another untouched occupation. There are in many parts of London worthy persons—I might say numberless—who let apartments. A widow with daughters often, once in affluence, reduced by misfortune. The poor lady manages the housekeeping; the daughters the housework. They cannot afford a servant; but occasional help is a boon for which they can pay Knife and boot cleaning are beyond their ability, a labour that would overtask them. With the boots the Society has dealt. I consider that a knife-cleaning machine, mounted with light iron wheels to drive on the side pavement of the roadway, would get a good set of regular customers. Two lads, one to clean the knives (which are well and rapidly done), the other to call at doors, take the knives, and return them in a few minutes. To attend from a quarter before six in the morning to seven would not interfere with business traffic. The machine would run lightly along. Charge at per dozen for cleaning. Servants also would decidedly patronize the movement. "I'm sure, ma'am, we have so much to do; better let those poor boys do the knives." Many a piece of bread and meat, or, it may be, articles of clothing, would householders bestow on them when identified in a regular round, and it may be, now and then, get a good place.

How far this is practicable you are a better judge than myself. The test would be to canvas a likely locality to obtain a set of customers to start with. Like the truck of the Rag-Collectors, there would be expense for a Kent's machine for cleaning knives. Still it is a daily want everywhere, far more regular than shoe-blacking, and would yield an increasing profit; at least, I cannot help thinking so.

I hope you will excuse me for troubling you with my idea. I have tried to be as brief as possible. And should your better judgment deem it feasible, I shall be happy to contribute a sovereign towards the purchase of the first machine the lads start.

Believe me, Sir, yours truly,

C. M. E.

HOW CHRISTIAN TEACHERS WERE OBTAINED.

To the Editor of the Ragged School Union Magazine.

Sir,—In your April number there is a letter with this title, "How to obtain Christian Workers." That more teachers are needed in Ragged Schools, almost every Report of the affiliated Institutions testifies; in fact, it seems now to be more difficult to obtain an adequate supply of efficient

workers than to get money to defray the expenses. But I confess that I was not prepared for the startling statement contained in the Twenty-first Report of the Ragged School Union, that there are no less than 511 fewer voluntary teachers in Ragged Schools than there were seven years ago. This painful fact indicates that the voluntary staff has fallen off above one-fifth. If, however, our Sunday scholars had dwindled in anything like the same proportion, there would be no just cause of complaint. But instead of the Sunday attendance having fallen off during the past seven years, it appears that it has increased 2,718, or above 1 in 9. Thus, with an increase of one-ninth in our classes, there is a decrease of one-fifth in our teachers. Hence with the flock enlarged there are fewer shepherds.

Your correspondent suggests that the chief source for the enlistment of teachers has not been earnestly or continuously sought; and thus that God's Spirit has not been besought with that importunity which receives no denial because it will take none. Such has been the fact in all ages of the Church; for prayer has ofttimes succeeded where action and exhortation have failed in securing the desired result. This is noticeably the case in the history of that modern miracle, Müller's Home for Orphans, at Ashley Down. By earnest prayer alone £100,000 has been raised for the maintenance of that great establishment; and thousands of orphans have been fed, taught, and, what is far better, *saved*. But, more than this, I find, from one of the "Brief Narratives of Facts" issued by that remarkable man, that in the same way that he secured funds he obtained teachers, namely, by importunate prayer. Having adequate funds, but being in a strait for co-workers, he went to the right place for them, and speedily obtained the aid of persons of a kindred spirit. Thus he says:—"I am further encouraged to enlarge the work, by the help which the Lord has given me regarding assistants. Had I been helped never so much in the way of pecuniary supplies, and had help in this particular been wanting, the work never would have been what it has been and is now. But as, in every other respect, I have proved the power of *prayer* and *faith* in God, so in this particular also. I have waited on God for assistants, and he has given them to me. When, for instance, I had before me the prospect of the enlargement of the orphan work in 1851, I began soon after to pray for suitable helpers in the work, and thus prayed day by day, long before a stone was laid in connection with the New Orphan House, No. 2. I continued day by day to pray concerning this object; and when at last this house was opened in 1857, the needed helpers were found without any *difficulty*. And now again, with regard to No. 3, I have been daily praying for helpers, for more than two years, and I doubt not, that, when this house shall be quite ready in the autumn, I shall again abundantly see the answer to prayer in this particular."

Let us, then, instead of any longer sighing over our diminished staff, besiege the throne of grace for more fellow-workers; for surely Mr. Müller is not the only one who receives direct answer to prayer, when he prays not for himself but for others. It is God's work in which we are, as Ragged School teachers, engaged; and thus it is the Lord's glory, and not our own, which is at stake. And surely God is more interested in the mission of his Divine Son than we can possibly be; seeing that Jesus came not simply because he willed it, but because the Father sent him both as Redeemer and Exemplar.

Now, no work of modern days—fertile as they have been in plans for the evangelization of Jew and Gentile—can compare with our crusade against social vice and misery. Nay, our very form of service complies with the injunction of Christ, "Go out quickly into the *streets* and *lanes* of the city, and bring in hither [viz., to the Gospel feast] the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind." Hence we may expect an answer to our prayer for teachers, seeing that obedience presupposed. For, as Paul says in a kindred case, "How *can* they believe without a preacher? and how can they preach without they are sent" by that holy One who can alone anoint man and woman with the fitting gifts for this most difficult yet most blessed of missions?

Such prayer might be offered at all times; in the closet, and at the family altar; but, above all, at the Teachers' Prayer Meeting. But, if an hour on Saturday evenings were devoted to such specific prayer for teachers, we should have all the benefits incident to concerted prayer. And who can doubt that in thus complying with Christ's words—"*Pray* ye the God of the harvest that he would send forth labourers into the harvest"—we should realize the prediction of Joel (ch. ii. ver. 2), "Be glad and rejoice, for the Lord will do great things"

Yours, &c.,

QUARTUS.

Notices of Meetings.

CHARLES STREET, DRURY LANE.

THE annual meeting of Charles Street, Drury Lane, Ragged School was held in the Boys' School-room, on Monday, 24th April. The President of the Schools, Sir R. W. Carden, Alderman, occupied the chair. The meeting having been opened by prayer, the Secretary read the Report, which stated that the school was in a prosperous condition. The expenditure, irrespective of balance of Building Fund (£40), has been £246. There now remains a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of £6 6s. 2d. The average attendance of scholars on the week-day has been 174 in the morning, 189 in the afternoon, 28 in evening; on Sunday, 220, afternoon and evening. The various agencies in operation in connection with the school are—Mothers' Meeting, Bible Class for elder Girls, Industrial Class for Girls, Band of Hope, Library for Boys, Penny Bank, Service for Adults on Sabbath evenings, and Soup Kitchen (during the winter months).

After the Chairman's speech the meeting was addressed by the Rev. J. McKenny, Rev. A. Mewton, Mr. Alderman Lusk, Joseph Payne, Esq., George Ross, Esq., M.D., and Mr. S. Tucker.

After a humorous and interesting speech, Mr. Payne gave his 2,092nd "Tail-piece."

Charles Street, in Drury Lane, is a queer place;
Many are crowded there in a small space:
All sorts of customers there may be had—
Some of them good ones and some of them bad.

Mending the bad ones is our to-night's work;
Chasing the evils around us that lurk;
Cheering the sad ones as much as we may;
Leading the wanderers in the right way.

Cardenal virtues are here our delight;
Cardenal chairmanship guides us to-night;
Cardenal charity let us bestow,
As in our Ragged work onward we go.

I have seen Carden, when a Lord Mayor,
Taking of ragged ones wonderful care;
Giving their hunger an ample relief,
Spooning potatoes and handing roast beef.

And no discredit at all to his place,
No diminution of honour or grace;
Good Christian people of fame are secure,
When they remember the cause of the poor.

Copy his pattern and follow his plan—
Worthy an active intelligent man;
Give of your substance, your time, and your prayers;
Add to their comforts and lessen their cares.

On in your labour of faith and of love,
Looking for strength to the strong One above;
So *shall*, by working each day of the seven,
Charles Street, in *Drury Lane*, help to fill *heaven!*

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The following contributions have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union from the 20th of June to the 20th of July, 1865:—

General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
An Old Ragged School Teacher, Matt. xxv. 40	1	0	0
Anonymous	0	5	0
Bunbury, Sir G. J. F., Bart.	2	2	0
Beville, Captain	1	0	0
Cartwright, Miss	2	0	0
Caulfield, Rev. E. W.	1	0	0
Crabb, Mr. T. E.	1	1	0
Grain, W., Esq.	2	2	0
J. P.	2	0	0
King, Miss L.	1	0	0
Kinnaird, Lord	2	0	0
Lucey, Joseph, Esq.	1	1	0
Mackness, Mrs.	0	13	6
Minahull, Mr. G.	1	1	0
Matthias, Mr. J.	1	1	0
Philips, Sir George	50	0	0
Paley, Mrs. G. B.	2	0	0
Proceeds of Work, per Miss Clack	1	1	0
Reade, Mrs.	0	11	6
Shepherd, Rev. R.	0	5	0
Treacher, H., Esq.	2	2	0
Wilson, J. R., Esq.	5	0	0

Excursion Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Acland, Sir T. D.	1	0	0
Addington, Rt. Hon. H. U.	1	0	0
Alcock, W. N., Esq.	1	0	0
Alexander, J. W., Esq.	10	0	0
Arden, Hon. Miss	5	0	0
Arnot, Miss	0	10	0
Bevan, R. C. L., Esq.	10	0	0
Bodkin, W. H., Esq., and Mrs.	1	10	0
Bodkin, Miss	1	0	0
Challis, J. H., Esq.	1	0	0
Ellis, W., Esq.	5	0	0
Gage, The Viscount	0	10	0
H. H.	0	10	0
H. G.	2	2	0
Hardinge, Lady	1	0	0
J. F.	0	10	0
Kinnaird, Hon. A.	1	0	0
Lancaster, Miss	1	0	0
Lorraine, Miss	2	0	0
Maxwell, W. J., Esq.	1	1	0
Millar, W., Esq.	3	3	0
Lys, Rev. J. T., B.D.	5	0	0
Peek, W., Esq.	2	0	0
Riddell, Miss	0	10	0
Riddell, Miss H.	0	10	0
Shaftesbury, Rt. Hon. Earl, K.G.	2	0	0
Symons, Mrs.	1	0	0

School Fund.

Brook Street.

Work-basket, per Miss Hawkins	1	5	0

Field Lane.

Hyde, Lieut.-Col. J. V.	5	0	0
Piffard, Mrs.	8	0	0

Lamb and Flag.

Harwood, Harwood, Esq.	0	18	6
Pearce, Mrs.	1	1	0

Little Saffron Hill.

A Lover of God's Wild Flowers	5	0	0

DONATIONS and SUBSCRIPTIONS will be thankfully received at the OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY, by the Secretary, Mr. JOSEPH G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand; by Messrs. HATCHARD & SON, 187, Piccadilly; Messrs. NISBET & Co., 21, Berners Street; by the Bankers, Messrs. BARCLAY, BEVAN, & Co., 54, Lombard Street; and by the Collector, Mr. W. A. BLAKE, 38, South Bank, N.W.

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Japanned Deal Goods may be seen in Complete Suites of five or six different colours—some of them light and ornamental, and others of a plainer description. Suites of Stained Deal Gothic Furniture, Polished Deal, Oak, and Walnut, are also set apart in separate rooms, so that customers are able to see the effect as it would appear in their own rooms. A suite of very superior Gothic Oak Furniture will generally be kept in stock, and from time to time new and select Furniture in various woods will be added.

Bed Furnitures are fitted to the Bedsteads in large numbers, so that a complete assortment may be seen, and the effect of any particular pattern ascertained as it would appear on the Bedstead.

A very large stock of Bedding (HEAL and SON'S original trade) is placed on the Bedsteads.

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Their Bedding trade receives their constant and personal attention, every article being made on the premises.

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